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SALLY CYRUS COLLECTION, 1910-2005

Accession Number: 2007/11.0762



Special Collections Department
James E. Morrow Library
Marshall University
Huntington, West Virginia
[2008]

SALLY CYRUS COLLECTION,

1910-2005

FINDING AID

Accession Number: 2007/11.0762

Processed By: Joey Ferguson, Charles Phipps, Tory Fuller, Libby Williams (History 651, Spring, 2008)

Date Completed: May, 2008

Location: Special Collections Department, Morrow Library

Corporate Name: N/A

Size of Collection: 10 cu. ft.

Extent: 1910-2005

System of Arrangement: Organized into Series. Series I-Camp Fire Girls, Series II-Huntington Azalea Garden Club, Series III-Jewel Doll Club, Series IV-Old Central City Association, Series V-Personal

Language: English

Restrictions on Access: none

Abstract: Ms. Sally Cyrus is a local (Huntington, WV) resident whose family owned a landmark hardware store in Old Central City. Following in the footsteps of her mother, Margaret (Peggy) Cyrus, she was instrumental in the establishment and continuation of several community economic projects and social clubs. Her collection includes her personal scrapbooks and memorabilia from her years as a Camp Fire girl, her mother's membership in the Huntington Azalea Garden Club, her personal collection of material from the Jewel Doll Club, and records of her active participation in the renovation of Old Central City. The collection, which was contributed to Marshall University in 2007, also includes yearbooks from Marshall High School and Huntington High School, genealogy documentation, Rhododendron Girl's State Program memorabilia, and various Marshall University photographs, and newspaper clippings.

Biographical Summary

Margaret (Peggy) Boone was born in 1909 and married Evan Cyrus in 1931. Sally O. Cyrus, her daughter, was born in 1932. Her second child, Judith Evan Cyrus was born in 1938. Peggy graduated from Huntington High in 1927. Sally graduated from Marshall High in 1949. Judy graduated from Marshall High School in 1956. Marshall High School became Marshall Laboratory School.

One of the most important organizations for Sally Cyrus during her early years was the Camp Fire Girls which she joined in 1946. She remained an active member for a quarter of a century. One of the items within the collection is an article by Sally Cyrus called "My Twenty Five Years as a Campfire Girl." The collection includes materials on Camp Dekanawida and the organization's presence in the Huntington Community.

The Huntington Azalea Garden Club was founded in 1940 with Peggy Cyrus elected as its first

president. The Huntington Azalea Garden Club was registered under the West Virginia Garden Club and hosted shows for floral arrangements, Christmas decorating, garden landscaping, and the Club held an annual Narcissus Show. The collection has documentation from the club's inception to its dissolution.

Sally Cyrus was the treasurer and former President of the Jewel Doll Club and financial records of the organization are maintained as part of the collection. An enthusiast for the collection of dolls, she kept careful records of the organization's expenditures. The Jewel Doll Club organization attends the annual West Virginia Doll convention which is currently headed by Sue Sager. The Jewel Doll Club is a local Huntington branch of the United Federation of Doll Clubs based out of Kansas City, Missouri. The United Federation of Doll Clubs was incorporated in 1949 with fourteen member clubs. The website of the United Federation of Doll Clubs, <http://www.ufdc.org/>, maintains that its goals are as follows: "The objectives of the non-profit corporation are to create, stimulate and maintain a national interest in all matters pertaining to doll collecting; to promote and assist in the preservation of historical documents pertaining to dolls; to serve as a clearing house for ideas pertaining to dolls; to promote and stimulate interest in the establishment and maintenance of museum doll collections and other permanent and temporary exhibits for display in public places; to assist the educational process through the sponsorship of and participation in lectures, seminars, conferences, and symposia; to publish a magazine to encourage the above enumerated charitable, scientific and educational activities." Today there are more than seven hundred member clubs in seventeen countries with a total membership in excess of fifteen thousand people. The Jewel Doll Club organization publishes its own quarterly newsletter.

Sally Cyrus was a member of the Old Central City Merchant's Association due to the presence of the Cyrus Family Hardware store located in Old Central City. The hardware store belonged to her maternal great-uncles before the annexation of Central City into the greater Huntington area in 1909. Sally's father, Evan Cyrus, acquired the store in 1928. The Merchant's Association (commonly referred to as the Old Central City Association) was instrumental in revitalization of Old Central City.

The Old Central City Association is a private historical organization devoted to its namesake section of the city of Huntington, WV. The Old Central City Association attempts to preserve antiques and buildings in the region. The Association also works for the revitalization of the area as an active tourist site in the State of West Virginia. The Old Central City Association maintains its own website <http://www.oldcentralcity.com/> in which it advertises the portion of Central City currently under preservation. It frequently holds fund-raisers, sponsors a veteran's march, a Christmas parade, and prints its own newsletter to promote awareness of Old Central City's current events. The Old Central City Association is a local organization and maintains no ties outside of the Huntington area.

The collection also includes personal memorabilia including: documentation from the Rhododendron Girl's State Program from 1958-1960, genealogy records of the Boone family (Sally's maternal family), and her membership and participation with the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Scope and Content Note

The Sally Cyrus Collection is the donated papers of Sally Cyrus, Peggy Cyrus, and Judy Cyrus. This collection chronicles their material contributions to several prominent Huntington organizations.

This collection provides an in-depth look at the lives of one of Huntington's upper-class families beginning in the 1920s and extending through the 1960s, a period in which Huntington experienced an economic boom and a population increase. The women whose lives are showcased in this collection were educated, socially elite, and financially secure. It is an insight to the gender role of the educated woman in high society and the activities she chose for her daughters. Organizing and actively participating in several civic organizations, utilizing skills normally seen in captains of industry, the Cyrus women left behind a comprehensive record of life for a woman in the early twentieth century in a railroad boom town.

The collection is arranged in five series, arranged alphabetically. It contains correspondence, memorabilia, convention programs, notes, awards, pamphlets, newspaper articles, photos, reports, and printed materials. These records document some of the activities of the Cyrus Family from the early 1900s to the mid-1990s. The collection also serves to illustrate some of the activities of the organizations to which they were members.

Arrangement Note

The collection is arranged in series. All materials were placed in archival class boxes and folders. The collection has been labeled and cataloged for future use by students, faculty, and researchers.

Series 1: Contains material relating to the Camp Fire Girls. Included are newspaper article clippings, photograph scrapbooks, articles of clothing from Sally Cyrus's days as a Camp Fire Girl, brochures for Camp Dekanawida, handbooks for the organization from various periods, and other official material for the organization.

Series 2: Contains newspaper clippings, flower show information, minutes of club meetings, program brochures, letters of resignation, and photos for the Huntington Azalea Garden Club.

Series 3: Contains materials relating to the Jewel Doll Club. The series contains scrapbooks, guidebooks to the Jewel Doll Club, and financial information for the organization.

Series 4: Contains materials relating to the Old Central City Association. The series includes association minutes, lists of members, financial records, restoration proposals, maps, diagrams, and television interviews.

Series 5: Contains the Cyrus Family's personal materials including high school yearbooks, a high school graduation diploma, personal correspondence, genealogy research, clippings, and bulletins.

COLLECTION

Series I - Camp Fire Girls

Box 1:

Camp Fire Photo Album – My Camp Days At Dekanawida 1929 – 1961. Photo album contains numerous photos and newspaper clippings of the camp fire girls participating in various camp activities. Includes newspaper articles of Mrs. Helen K. Ferguson, Executive Director, Camp

Fire Girls, 1923-1963.

Box 2:

Hand embroidered beanie (hat) with names of various girls
Beaded moccasins
2 Silver bracelets
Silver charm bracelet
Beaded leather belt
Blue bird pin
Copper, hand-craved, blue bird plate
Strung beads and additional loose beads

Box 3:

Handbooks:

Camp Fire Girls: Library of the Seven Crafts – The Rainbow Book, Clay Craft, Leathercraft
– Beading, Book Craft - 1930, 1931, 1935
Book of the Camp Fire Girls – 1922
Book of the Camp Fire Girls – 1936 (2 copies)
Book of the Camp Fire Girls – 1946
Book of the Camp Fire Girls – 1948
Handbook for Guardians of Camp Fire Girls - 1952
Book of the Camp Fire Girls - 1953
Book of the Camp Fire Girls – 1962
Horizon Club Book – 1962
Book of the Junior Hi Camp Fire Girls – 1962
Blue Bird Book for Leaders – 1962
Treasurer's Book of the Toppers Horizon Club Group – 1948-49
Includes 1966 Bronze Star Membership Award

Box 4:

Beaded Ceremonial Gown
1 Beaded Collar
2 Neckerchiefs
1 Neckerchief Slide
1 Handkerchief
3 Patches
Arm Band
Red Ribbon
Extra Leather Material (on bottom)

Series I - Camp Fire Girls (“CFG”), Series II - Huntington Azalea Garden Club (“HAGC”), and

Series III - Jewel Doll Club (“JDC”)

Box 5:

The following folders:

- Folder 1:** “Reflections on My 25 years as a Campfire Girl” by Sally Cyrus
- Folder 2:** CFG Camp Brochures, Community Brochures with CFG advertisements
- Folder 3:** CFG Leadership training materials
- Folder 4:** CFG Camp Dekanawida Memorabilia, Certificate of Recognition
- Folder 5:** CFG pictures of Sally Cyrus and other girls at camp
- Folder 6:** CFG History, Youth Group Outdoors Information, Camp D. Stationary
- Folder 7:** Camp Lore and Folk Songs
- Folder 8:** CFG Leadership Awards and Career Information
- Folder 9:** CFG Memory Book
- Folder 10:** CFG newspaper clippings
- Folder 11:** Camp Dekanawida Torchbearer’s Information
- Folder 12:** HAGC news clippings, Picture 1951
- Folder 13:** HAGC Narcissus Show Information, Photo of Peggy Cyrus, Correspondence between Peggy and Enslow Park
- Folder 14:** HAGC Club Correspondence, Club minutes 1980s-90’s
- Folder 15:** 50th Anniversary Information for HAGC
- Folder 16:** HAGC laminated newspaper clippings
- Folder 17:** Typed history of the HAGC
- Folder 18:** HAGC Photos
- Folder 19:** HAGC Clippings and photos 1969-1971
- Folder 20:** HAGC minutes 1978-82
- Folder 21:** HAGC letters of resignation and of thanks

- Folder 22:** HAGC Roll book 1960-1983, membership application
- Folder 23:** HAGC Christmas Programs Information 1977-present, 25th Anniversary Information.
- Folder 24:** 40th Anniversary Information.
- Folder 25:** Doll Poems, Clippings, Articles
- Folder 26:** Rose O'Neill Doll Club Newsletters
- Folder 27:** JDC minutes 1998-2000
- Folder 28:** JDC Membership Information
- Folder 29:** JDC Yearbooks '74-05, Correspondence with Rose O'Neill Club, Clippings
- Folder 30:** Doll Convention Information
- Folder 31:** JDC Agenda 1999-2001
- Folder 32:** Reports to the United Federation Doll Club (UFDC), UFDC credentials and by-laws
- Folder 33:** Typed history of JDC
- Folder 34:** JDC Meeting Notes
- Folder 35:** JDC Financial Information

Series II - Huntington Azalea Garden Club ("HAGC")

Box 6:

Scrapbook – 1940-1947

Includes newspaper clippings of Garden Club officers and members, yearbooks, photographs of members, reports, written radio broadcasts, committee reports, and poems.

Scrapbook with newspaper clippings, Narcissus Show Awards and Bulletins, Photographs

Collection of Azalea Garden Club yearbooks 1947-1975

Box 7:

Scrapbook – "My Garden"

Includes newspaper clippings of Garden Club officers and members, yearbooks, photographs of members, Guyan Garden Club Year Book (1944-1945), Huntington Azalea Garden Club Year Book (1945-1946), Annual Narcissus Show flyer 1944, and conference pamphlets.

Series III – Jewel Doll Club (JDC), Series IV – Old Central City Association (OCCA)

Box 8:

Series III

United Federation of Doll (UFDC) Clubs President's Guidebook
Doll Club President Scrapbook
JDC minutes and Financial Information in UFDC binder

Series IV

OCCA minutes, list of members, finances and more from 1989-1995 in binders

Series IV – Old Central City Association (OCCA)

Box 9:

Binder containing photos of businesses, churches, maps, public services, and schools in Huntington, WV. Newspaper clippings. Loose history of Samuel Woodrow Johnston – possibly the owner of the property that became Old Central City.

Binder containing minutes of meetings of OCCA for 1997, 1998, and 1999, By-laws of OCCA, Treasurer's Reports, Letter from Small Business Institute, History of OCCA, Executive Summary, Old Central City Courier of 1894, Reissue of Central City Courier of 1894, Financial Reports, parade photos, list of sponsors (?)

Binder containing Subrecipient Agreement by & between The City of Huntington, WV and Old Central City Association, Inc. (with original signatures of Sally Cyrus and Mayor Jean Dean), dedication agenda of gazebo, publicity material, newspaper clippings, pictures of gazebo. Binder also includes receipts, proposals for gazebo, cost analysis, and treasurer's reports.

Binder containing photographs, newspaper clippings, letters, flyers, and publicity material relating to the gazebo in Old Central City. Binder also contains OCCA membership lists, expense reports, and announcements and schedule of events of Old Central City Days.

Penciled sketch of the Cyrus Hardware store.

Video (and CD) of television interviews with Sally Cyrus, parades, and dedication services of Old Central City.

Box 10:

Old Central City Shopping Bags

Old Central City Newspaper Clippings
Old Central City Redevelopment Plan book
Cyrus Family Hardware Store Calendar

Series V – Personal

Box 11:

George B. Everton Sr., Hand Book for Genealogists Sixth Edition The Handy Book for Genealogists ed. by (Logan, Utah: The Everton Publishers, Inc., 1971)– contains loose newspaper clippings from The Herald – Advertiser, Huntington, W, VA. – September 8, 1974

William Fletcher, Recording Your Family History A Guide to Preserving Oral History with Video Tape·Audio Tape·Suggested Topics & Questions·Interview Techniques (New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1983)

Helen S. Stinson, Greenbrier Co., W.VA Court Orders 1780 – 1850 (Publisher unidentified, 1988) Contains pink sheet of paper with handwritten notes between pages 178-179

Binder – Corps of Discovery Eastern Legacy Lewis and Clark Expedition, Sept. 19-21, 2003, Buford Chapter of National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Huntington, WV

The following folders:

Folder 1: Maps – topographic of (1) West Virginia (Greenbrier County) White Sulphur Springs Quadrangle (2) West Virginia Ronceverte Quadrangle – 1923 Editions. Map price list.

Folder 2: Material on genealogy

Folder 3: Leaflets from the National Archives re genealogical research, Maryland's Liberty Tree: A Facts Sheet, information sheets from the Daughters of the American Revolution, Commemorative Community Program for the 50th Anniversary of The Korean War, Data Work Sheets for genealogy research, and Children Continuation Sheet for Family Group.

Folder 4: Diploma for Judith Evan Cyrus Marshall High School – May 25, 1956

Folder 5: Fifth Grade project of Judy Cyrus, Bill Taylor - "Sights Through A Telescope"

Folder 6: Material from Marshall College including information booklets, receipts, Junior/Senior Banquet booklets (May 1954, 1955), graduation invitation (Sally Cyrus), newspaper clipping

Folder 7: School newspaper article entitled "Coach Henderson Resigns" – The Parthenon, Marshall College Student Newspaper, March 7, 1955

Folder 8: Marshall Homecoming Pictures (1960?)

Folder 9: Rhododendron Girls State Program – Sixteenth Annual Session – June 8-14, 1958 – American Legion Auxiliary; Rhododendron Girls State Program – Seventeenth Annual Session – June 14-20, 1959 – American Legion Auxiliary; Rhododendron Girls State Program – Eighteenth Annual Session – June 12-18, 1960 – American Legion Auxiliary

Folder 10: Pictures of dedication of Union School (one room school) on MU campus

Folder 11: Newspaper Clipping of Mary Jane Tolley

Huntington High School Year Book – Tatler, Volume 2, May 1915
Huntington High School Year Book – The Tatler, Volume X, 1923
Huntington High School Year Book – The Annual Tatler 1924 (2)
Huntington High School Year Book – The Annual Tatler 1925
Huntington High School Year Book – The Annual Tatler 1927 with commencement sermon and invitation to the 69th class reunion

Marshall High School Year Book – The Brigadier – 1951

Marshall High School Year Book – The Brigadier – 1952

Box 12:

Marshall High School Year Book – The Brigadier – 1953

Marshall High School Year Book – The Brigadier – 1954

Marshall High School Year Book – The Brigadier – 1955

The following folders:

Folder 1: Correspondence between Peggy Cyrus and Hovah Underwood, news clippings of local ‘Titanic’ Survivor

Folder 2: Marshall High School (M.H.S.) Newspaper ‘The Microphone’ 1946-1947

Folder 3: M.H.S. Newspaper ‘The Microphone’ 1948

Folder 4: M.H.S. Newspaper ‘The Microphone’ 1949 & unidentified

Folder 5: Spring Valley Women’s Golf Club Clippings, West Virginia Open ‘Official’ Ribbon, 5th Ave. Baptist Church bulletins

Folder 6: Huntington High School (H.H.S.) Class of 1927 50th Reunion Materials

Folder 7: H.H.S. 61st Reunion Class of ’27 materials

Folder 8: H.H.S. 70th Reunion Class of ’27 materials

Folder 9: Huntington Band Festival clippings, sheet music for Marshall College

Folder 10: Huntington, WV city yearbook 1900-1910 Huntington, West Virginia: Viewed from a Business Standpoint, It's Brilliant Past and Promising Future

Folder 11: Huntington Chamber of Commerce Yearbook

Folder 12: Unidentified materials

Box 13:

Newspaper Clippings (family genealogy)

Greenbrier County 160th Anniversary Edition 1778-1938 – Roncerverte, W.VA (June 16, 1938)

Box 14:

Blue Visor of Marshall Lab School 1896-1970

Blue T-shirt of Marshall Lab School 1895-1970